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REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Yugoslavia

DATE OF

SUBJECT

Sociological - Housing

Bimonthly periodical

INFORMATION 1950

How

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PUBLISHED

DATE DIST.

1 DEC 1950

WHERE

PUBLISHED.

Zagreb

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE

PUBLISHED

May - Jun 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

Serbo-Jroatian

REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING YME MATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPICHAGE ACT SO U.S. C., 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELLTION OF 175 CONTROL THE STATE OF THE S

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SOURCE

Urbanizam i Arhitektura.

POSTWAR HOUSING CONDITIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Engr Arch Mate Baylon

About 370,000 rural housing units in Yugoslavia and about 100,000 in the cities were damaged during the war, thus reducing the total number of housing units to semething over 2,600,000 on the day of liberation. About 150,000 rural housing units were built or repaired during 1945 and 1946; the majority of those damaged were restored. Most of the urban construction was rebuilding.

About 20,000 housing units in the liberated territory f ormer Italian territory, were restored during the war.

The Five-Year Plan calls for the construction of 15 million square meters of housing.

The average living area for most units now being built is 11.3 square meters, or one square meter less than the average of the units built between the two wars.

Family dwellings now being built are smaller, on the average, than before the war in regard to the number of persons in each dwelling (3.15 adults per dwelling); however, each dwelling has a bath or shower.

A disproportion exists between living area and service area per person.

The average number of persons per unit is too high, and the welfare of the home is endangered in units where there are more than two persons to a room, or units where four or more people are without a living room.

Progress is being made in reducing the number of housing units being built with a northern exposure and increasing those with a sunny exposure, especially for the living rooms of the units. Progress is also being made in improving access from room to room, reducing the average distance between bathroom and bedroom, between the table in the kitchen and that in the dining room, etc. Lighting is often inadequate or excessive. Space assigned to the bathtub and the

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water closet is evenly balanced now, but could be decreased considerably with technical improvement, a change to central heating, and the production of standardized equipment. The average size of the entrance hall is 6.10 meters, as compared with 10 square meters in prewar units. Progress is being made in the correct distribution of working space and basic equipment in the kitchen.

The various services and installations which are provided for collective use, such as mechanical washers, dryers, hot-water supply, central heating, collection of trash, restaurants, children's playgrounds, kindergartens, etc., are comparatively new to Yugoslavia, and are even now not keeping pace with the building of new housing.

The building of a network of restaurants, more in the vicinity of factories and enterprises than in housing areas, is proving successful. About 70,000 subscribers, or about 28 percent of the working population of Relgrade, are being fed in these restaurants. Yugoslav restaurants of this kind had a total capacity of 700,000 subscribers by the end of 1949. This represents an increase of 40 percent over 1948.

Yugoslavia now has about 500 children's playgrounds and kindergartens to accommodate 20,000 children, as compared with the prewar total of ten playgrounds, which accommodated about 100 children.

To date, Yugoslavia has opened 1,062 dormitories in which 127,931 agricultural, middle, and professional school students are lodged.

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